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508CLASSIFICATION ~~SECRET~~ CONTROL/US OFFICIALS ONLYCOUNTRY Soviet Zone of Germany REPORT NO. TOPIC Soviet Troops and High Unit Headquarters in WITTENBERG

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EVALUATION  PLACE OBTAINED  25X1ADATE PREPARED 11 January 1950

REFERENCES

25X1A

PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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SOURCE 

25X1X 1. a. A motorized column, coming from the direction of PRATAU (N 52/E 37), crossed the Elbe River bridge toward WITTENBERG (N 52/E 37) in the evening of 20 October 1949.

b. The column consisted of:

Ten Shchuka tanks

Fifty-one T34/43 tanks

25X1 Personnel carrier  with mounted 13-mm machine gun, occupied by one officer, one driver, one gunner and three ammunition bearers.

Nine T34/43 tanks

25X1 Personnel carrier  with mounted heavy AA machine gun, occupied as the other personnel carrier

25X1C Passenger car  occupied by a colonel and two other officers

Four trucks, each occupied by eight men, towing 76.2-mm AT guns,

25X1C  25X1

Two trucks, each occupied by about 20 soldiers 

25X1C

Three trucks, occupied by about 20 troops each,  25X1

25X1C

Two trucks, occupied by about 20 troops each,  25X1

25X1C

c. The tanks, having a very rough coat of paint (allegedly cement), were very dirty. All tanks had rolled-up camouflage paulins behind the turrets. About 50 percent carried two to four round timbers or rolled-up corduroy "cannets" four or five feet wide. Some of the tanks  25X1

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[redacted] The column moved into the Flak Kaserne.

2. An empty train of 47 flatcars, from which heavy weapons had been allegedly unloaded some days before, was standing beside the loading ramp of the main railroad station.
3. The following information on the occupation of WITTENBERG quarters was obtained on 3 and 4 November 1949:

a. Faentzien Kaserne:

- (1) Headquarters of a tank division with 40 to 50 officers and about 100 EM.

25X1C

- (2) Guards rifle unit.

25X1C

- (3) Motor transport unit with motor vehicles [redacted] 25X1
- [redacted] The officers and EM in the Kaserne totaled about 400. Besides soldiers of the mentioned branches of service, some artillery men were seen. No heavy weapons were observed.

25X1C

b. Flak Kaserne:

- (1) Guards tank and artillery units totaling about 2,000 troops, about 40 percent wearing the guards badge. Besides tank and artillery troops, some soldiers wearing the motor transport insignia were seen.

- (2) About 50 T34/43 tanks, six 76.2-mm AT guns and five rocket launchers were seen [redacted] 25X1
- [redacted] at the Kaserne area. However more heavy weapons were stationed in the Kaserne.

25X1

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c. Beseler Kaserne:

(1) Guards tank regiment of about 1,000 troops. Besides tank troops some artillery men were seen. Maintenance work was done on 22 T34/43 tanks, three Shchuka tanks and two heavy SP guns parked in the kaserne yard. Bogie wheels and tracks of most of the tanks were exchanged. The tanks had a rough, greenish coat of paint. Other tanks, mostly type T 34/43, were stored in the garages of the kaserne. Sixty tanks were estimated to be stationed in the kaserne.

25X1C

d. Passenger car [redacted] occupied by a tank major, and passenger car [redacted] occupied by field officers, were observed in front of a row of villas on Berlinerstrasse.

Comment:

a. The motorized column with about 70 tanks, observed on 20 October 1949, was possibly connected with the river-crossing exercise at MUEHLANGEN on 21 and 22 October 1949.

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b. The information on the occupation of the WITTENBERG kasernes in early November 1949 indicates that component units of the 6th Gds Tank Div (Cadre) were back in their winter quarters at that time.

(1) Since a high unit headquarters has been repeatedly reported in the former Pauentzien Kaserne, it is assumed with a high measure of certainty that the Hq 6th Gds Tank Div (Cadre) is stationed there. The kaserne may also be occupied by the (22d Xs?) motorized rifle regiment of the division.

(2) [redacted] the WITTENBERG-TRAJUN Flak Kaserne is presumably occupied by a signal unit (145th Gds Sig Bn?), a rocket unit (439th Gds Rocket Bn?) and an engineer unit (120th Xs Engr Bn?) of the 6th Gds Tank Div (Cadre) in addition to the reported tank and artillery units.

(3) The information that a "guards tank regiment of about 1,000 troops" is quartered in the former Beseler Kaserne confirms the 81st Gds Tank Regt (Cadre).

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